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REMARKS

In the Office Action of August 19, 2004, Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112 and contends that such claims contains subject matter not described in the specification as originally filed. In particular, Examiner contends that there is no support in the specification for the recitation of "instead of attaching said overhead associated with said point-to-point connection" in step (e) of claim 1. Since claims 2-8 depend from claim 1, Examiner also rejected such claims for the same reason. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as follows.

Applicant submits that exemplary support for the recitation is found in Figures 9 and 10a-10d, and the corresponding description found at page 10, line 21 through page 12, line 6 of the description. In particular, at page 11, lines 3-14 describe an embodiment in which initially the content addressable memory (CAM) relating to an ATM cell is referenced against a unicast header. Subsequently, the CAM is altered to refer instead to a multicast header, which is then pre-pended to incoming ATM cells (see page 12, lines 2-6). Furthermore, the feature in step (e) of claim 1 is also shown in step 102 of Figure 9, which states among other things that ingress card A is to "transmit cells using multicast header *only*" [emphasis added]. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of step (e) of claims 1-8 is fully described in the application as originally filed and thus traverses the rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112.

Examiner further rejected claims 1, 2, 7-19 and 21-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,684,797 to Aznar et al. ("Aznar"), and rejected claims 3-6 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Aznar in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,959,972 to Hamami ("Hamami"). Applicant traverses each of these rejections as follows.

Applicant's invention as claimed in claims 1 and 15 is directed to enabling monitoring of a point-to-point connection in a communication device of a network, while claim 9 is directed to

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monitoring such a connection in a communication device. In an embodiment, a connection is converted from a point-to-point connection to a point-to-multipoint connection in the communication device without disrupting the point-to-point packet flow. Thereafter, the data arriving at one of the new outputs may then be monitored as a reflection of data in the point-to-point packet flow. This conversion is accomplished in part by *configuring the outputs* (i.e., the multicast recipient elements) to receive a multicast packet (see for example, step (c) of claim 1, step (a) of claim 9, and step (c) of claim 15).

Meanwhile, Aznar does not teach or suggest the monitoring, or facilitating the monitoring, of one of the multipoint outputs. In particular, Aznar is directed to point-to-multipoint transmission, and describes aspects relating to the transmission of an ATM cell from to multiple recipient element, but does not describe any aspect that relates to monitoring packet flow as stated in claims 1, 9 or 15 of the subject application.

Additionally, Aznar does not teach or suggest the configuration of multicast *recipient elements* to achieve the point-to-multipoint connection as per claims 1, 9 and 15 of the subject application. Aznar describes a point-to-multicast method and system in which an ATM cell to be transmitted is associated with a "TP_Vector", which contains a list of the recipient ports for the ATM cell (see Column 3, lines 5-9). At the transmit port, the TP_Vector is read to obtain the address of the recipient ports and then the ATM cell is then transmitted to the recipient ports by way of the address (see Column 3, lines 49-51 and Column 4, lines 37-60). Thus, Aznar only teaches the configuration of an addressing element TP_Vector associated with an ATM cell to implement multicasting, but does not teach or suggest any configuring of multicast recipients to accept multicast data.

Further, Aznar only teaches a point-to-multipoint connection system method that may also be utilized to provide a point-to-point connection. In particular, point-to-point connections are implemented by Aznar by having only a single recipient port identified in the TP_Vector, and

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thus providing a point-to-point connection even though the routing method and system is the same as for point-to-multipoint (see Column 1, lines 59-60 and Column 2, lines 6-16). As such, Aznar does not teach a point-to-point connection that is converted to a point-to-multipoint connection *per se*, but only teaches a point-to-multipoint connection that may be used as point-to-point connection.

To more clearly distinguish features of Applicant's invention from Aznar, independent claims 1 and 15 are amended to more explicitly set out the facilitation of monitoring feature of the invention, and claim 9 is amended to more explicitly set of the monitoring feature. Exemplary support for the amendments is found at page 2, lines 13-15 of the description.

Hamami is likewise distinguished from claims 1, 9 and 15 since Hamami does not teach all aspects of such claims. In particular, Hamami is directed to providing link redundancy in an ATM switch, and does not teach systems or methods relating to conversion of point-to-point connections to point-to-multipoint connections.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 9 and 15, and all claims depending therefrom, are patentable over Aznar and Hamami whether each reference is taken alone or in combination. Applicant thus respectfully traverses the rejections of claims 1-24 on the basis of 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103.

Applicant herein adds new independent claim 25 and dependent claims 26-31.

New claim 25 is directed to a method of non-disruptive monitoring of a point-to-point connection. Claim 25 includes the feature of configuring an egress point and a test point to accept a point-to-multipoint connection. As mentioned above, the features of monitoring and configuring recipient elements are not taught or suggested by Aznar or Hamami. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 25, and claims 26-31 depending therefrom, are patentable over Aznar and Hamami whether each reference is taken alone or in combination.

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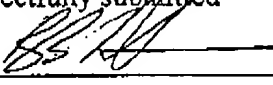
Exemplary support for claims 25-31 is found in Figure 9, at page 1, line 9-19, and at page 9, line 19 through page 14, line 14 of the description.

No new subject matter is provided with the present amendments. In view of the above remarks, Applicant submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant earnestly solicits that this application be permitted to proceed to allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to discuss this case further, if necessary.

Respectfully submitted

January 19, 2005

Date


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